

biked from Hastings, NY, to Washington, DC, to demonstrate their commitment to alternative transportation—most especially to the bicycle and pedestrian provisions which are currently contained in the intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act [ISTEA].

I especially want to salute one of my constituents, Dave Gordon, who was injured on the bike ride to Washington. Because of his injury, Dave could not complete his mission, but I for one do not doubt his commitment to a cleaner environment and to transportation alternatives. We need more people like him in this world.

Mr. Speaker, because of the example and fortitude of these bicyclists I would like to urge all of my colleagues to seriously consider renewing our commitment to transportation alternatives and to a cleaner environment, for ourselves and for future generations, as we debate the reauthorization of ISTEA this summer.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, on May 25, Senator STROM THURMOND became the longest serving U.S. Senator in the history of our Nation. It is a pleasure for me to join those who are honoring him on his distinguished career.

Senator THURMOND is a truly amazing person. He has served the people of South Carolina as a teacher, athletic coach, county superintendent of education, city attorney, county attorney, State senator, State circuit judge, Governor, and U.S. Senator. He has also been a candidate for President of the United States, carrying four States and receiving 39 electoral votes, and he is the first person in the history of our country to be elected to a Federal office as a write-in candidate, in his election to the U.S. Senate in 1954. He volunteered for active duty in World War II on the day that war was declared by the United States against Germany, serving with distinction in the American, European, and Pacific Theaters, and he participated in the "D-Day" invasion in Normandy. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve for 36 years, retiring as a Major General.

Throughout his outstanding career, Senator THURMOND has tirelessly dedicated himself to helping others. So many people have benefited from his efforts on their behalf. Also, Senator THURMOND has an extraordinary legislative record. During his service in the Senate, he has crafted volumes of key legislation and he has led the debate to keep our country strong and free.

Senator THURMOND is a true patriot, a valiant Army officer, a statesman of the highest order, and a true friend to all who know him. Our Nation has been blessed with his leadership and stewardship. Senator STROM THURMOND is a great American hero. He is wished much continued success.

HONORING BARBARA FAISON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Barbara Faison who is a hard worker and is dedicated to her family, friends, and community.

Barbara Faison started her community in the late sixties, when East New York was experiencing a race riot. She worked with the Congress of Racial Equality [CORE], under the leadership of Roy Innis. She also worked for former New York Mayor John Lindsey who asked her to serve as a youth liaison in the East New York community.

Barbara became a union representative of Local 144 and a housing activist where she assisted homeowners who were confronted with eviction. She also established "hot lines" for abused children and served on the area policy board. Her community work at St. Gabriel's Church also included efforts to feed sick, poor, and homeless people in the surrounding neighborhoods. Additionally, Ms. Faison is a member of the Rosetta Gaston Club. Barbara has remained active in both youth and senior citizen issues. I am pleased to recognize her many contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE DELHAVEN COMMUNITY CENTER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25th ANNIVERSARY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delhaven Community Center of La Puente, CA, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. On Saturday, June 7, 1997, Delhaven will celebrate its 25th annual volunteer recognition dinner, honoring those who have helped in Delhaven's growth and service to the San Gabriel Valley.

Delhaven's successful growth is a result of the exemplary services the center provides and offers to area residents. Founded in June 1972 by Barbara and Wyatt Seal, Delhaven serves the greater La Puente community through numerous services at no or low cost to residents. Programs for the developmentally disabled, for children, and for youth are the central focus of Delhaven's efforts. These services include after school activities, a social service club, assistance programs for at risk children, and social welfare programs which include emergency food and clothing assistance programs. The growth of these programs is testimony to the successful efforts of the Seal family and the thousands of volunteers who give selflessly of their time.

Among its many offerings, Delhaven's summer camp program exemplifies the tremendous growth the center has undergone over the past 25 years. In 1972, Delhaven began a 2-week summer camp with 23 participants. Since that time, it has grown to 14 weeks of summer camp with over 900 participants. It has also grown from just 6 volunteers to over 600, and has increased the programs it offers

from 6 to over 20. Additionally, Delhaven has grown from 2 volunteer staff members to 28 full- or part-time paid staff.

Delhaven has been able to provide these services over the past 25 years because of its volunteers. Throughout the years, over 3,500 selfless individuals have helped Delhaven in its efforts to meet the community's needs. I commend each and every one of the volunteers who, over the past 25 years, have helped to make Delhaven a model community center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the spirit of voluntary service that has flourished at Delhaven Community Center under the leadership of the Seal family over the past 25 years, and to join me in congratulating Delhaven on its 25th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE FAMILY EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Education Freedom Act of 1997, a bill to empower millions of working-and-middle class Americans to choose a non-public education for their children, as well as making it easier for parents to actively participate in improving public schools. The Family Education Freedom Act accomplishes its goals by allowing American parents a tax credit of up to \$3,000 for the expenses incurred in sending their children to private, public, parochial, other religious school, or for home schooling their children.

The Family Education Freedom Act returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America's education system; what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called "consumer sovereignty." Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education market. Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the Federal Government. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," public and even private schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of Federal educators while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an ever-greater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with state control.

Loss of control is a key reason why so many of America's parents express dissatisfaction with the educational system. According to a study by the well-respected public opinion firm Fibrizio, McLaughlin and Associates, Americans want Congress to get the Federal bureaucracy out of the schoolroom and give them more control over their children's education.

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them

to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the Federal bureaucracy, not the parents.

The \$3,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents. Mr. Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Although public schools are traditionally financed through local taxes, increasingly, parents who wish their children to receive a quality education may wish to use their credit to improve their schools by helping financing the purchase of educational tools such as computers or extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services for their children.

Greater parental support and involvement is surely a better way to improve public schools than funneling more Federal tax dollars, followed by greater Federal control, into the public schools. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than Government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aide those parents who choose to educate their children at home. Home schooling has become an increasingly popular, and successful method, of educating children. According to recent studies, home schooled children outperform their public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally normed, standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages foregone by the spouse who foregoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the State has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the increase in Federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS: A 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing House Concurrent Resolution , a resolution that reconfirms the importance of our bilateral relationship with the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

April 2, 1997 was the 50th anniversary of a special political relationship and strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands. On that date in 1947, the Security Council of the United Nations approved the Trusteeship Agreement for the Former Japanese Mandated Islands.

This agreement was negotiated by the Truman administration and gave the United States strategic control of a vast area of the Pacific formerly held by Japan as a League of Nations Mandate. What became known under U.S. law as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands [TTPI] was the only U.N. trusteeship out of eleven created after WWII classified by the Security Council as "strategic."

Recognition of the strategic nature of the U.S. administration of the TTPI was appropriate in light of the fact that in 1946, while the islands were still under military occupation following the end of hostilities that ended Japanese rule, the U.S. already had commenced its vital nuclear weapons testing program at Bikini in the Marshall Islands.

In 1946 President Truman had sent a young Congressman from Montana on an inspection trip to the region. Mike Mansfield came back and argued eloquently on the floor of the House that the Congress should approve the trusteeship agreement with the United Nations because the U.S. national interest would be served by strategic control of the islands. He was right.

The 2,000 Marshall Islands became the focal point of the U.S. strategic program. In addition to the nuclear testing program at Bikini and Enewetak from 1946 to 1958 the United States has maintained one of its most vital military installations anywhere on earth in the Marshall Islands throughout the second half of this century; the Mid-Pacific Missile Testing Range at Kwajalein Atoll.

Thus, while the U.S. also has maintained relations with the other island groups in the region, the relationship with the Marshall Islands has been a special strategic partnership. This was recognized in the bilateral agreements between the U.S. and the Marshall Islands which were concluded at the time the U.N. trusteeship was terminated based on entry into force of the Compact of Free Association.

For example, the separate bilateral agreements with the Republic of the Marshall Islands included not only the military base rights at Kwajalein, but the agreement establishing the framework within which the U.S. would continue after termination of the trusteeship to address the effects of the nuclear testing program on the people of the Marshall Islands and their homelands. For these island peoples, the nuclear testing program is a legacy that looms as large in their lives as WWII does in the American experience.

In other words, it is a legacy of fortitude in the face of a threat to survival itself. The U.S. nuclear testing program in the cold war era, far more than the fact that major battles of WWII itself had taken place in the Marshalls, was the defining experience of the Marshallese people in this century.

Obviously, there have been legal claims and controversies arising from the intrusion of the nuclear age into the world of the islanders. But this resolution recognizes that out of the adversity there was also forged an alliance that has been sustained throughout the years. The Marshallese people had the wisdom to recognize that the United States was playing a vital role in the maintenance of international peace and security, and although they demanded justice and the redress of injuries as all people have the right to do, the Marshallese people and their leaders never turned their back on the U.S. when we needed them as a strategic partner.

During the twilight years of the cold war the Marshall Islands stood by the United States even though they had far more reasons—if they had wanted them—to move out of alignment with this nation than many of those governments which did just that. The Marshalls, however, never viewed the close political and strategic partnership with the U.S. as an unmanageable constraint on their cultural and political identity as a nation.

Thus, the relationship between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States represents not only a successful strategic partnership, but a successful process of decolonization consistent with the goals of the U.N. trusteeship system. This is a foreign policy success of which the Congress and the people of the United States should be proud. Understanding and sustaining this success may have significance for the U.S. in its relations with other peoples and nations as well, and this should not be overlooked.

This is a special relationship which we cannot allow to be neglected or unduly diminished as a result of ill-conceived policies which do not take into account the legacy of the past and the prospects for the future. Narrow thinking based on short-term priorities should not control the determination of how this relationship will be managed as the first term of the Compact of Free Association comes to an end. Congress must take responsibility to exercise oversight with respect to the formulation of a long-term policy for our bilateral relationship with the Marshall Islands.

As an ally and strategic partner, the Republic of the Marshall Islands has paid a uniquely high price to define its national interest in a manner that also has been compatible with vital U.S. national interests. That is what an alliance is in its most essential form, and that is what Congress will recognize by adopting this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution .

REPORT FROM INDIANA—RON CLARK

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my Report from Indiana.